

N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 5.8 Percent **Payroll Employment Up 27,600 Jobs**

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in February, unchanged from a revised 5.8 percent in January, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in February 2004, California's unemployment rate was 6.4 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California grew by 27,600 jobs over the month, for a total of 14,681,600.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in February was 16,718,000. This was an increase of 128,000 from January, and up 372,000 from the employment total in February of last year.

Editor's Note: February 2005 shows an unusually large increase in civilian employment in California, up 128,000. At this point it is unclear how much of this gain is attributable to the new federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology or to actual job creation over the month. The new methodology is designed to better identify changes in the economy on a real time basis and for the first time is including 2000 Census data. EDD's Labor Market Information Division analysts will continue working with BLS to closely monitor California's civilian employment numbers over the next several months. Users are reminded that the monthly data are always preliminary and subject to revision in subsequent months.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,021,000 – an increase of 1,000 over the month, but down by 105,000 compared with February of last year.

Of the unemployed, 405,900 were laid off, 146,100 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 422,683 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the February survey week. This compares with 418,919 last month and 470,489 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 47,791 in February 2005, compared with 48,180 in January and 48,874 in February of last year.

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WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,681,600 in February, a net gain of 27,600 jobs since the January survey. This followed a gain of 8,500 jobs (as revised) in January.

Seven of the categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; information; professional and business services; educational and health services; other services; and government**) added jobs over the month, gaining 33,900 jobs. The construction industry showed the largest gain, up by 10,700 jobs. Three categories (**manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; and leisure and hospitality**) reported job declines this month, down 6,300 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 3,200 jobs. One category, **financial activities**, was unchanged over the month.

In a year-over-year comparison (February 2004 to February 2005), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 234,500 jobs (up 1.6 percent).

Eight industry divisions (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and other services**) posted job gains over the year, adding 252,000 jobs. On a numerical basis, professional and business services showed the strongest employment growth, adding 63,800 jobs (a 3.1 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, construction showed the strongest gain, up 6.4 percent (adding 53,100 jobs).

Three categories (**natural resources and mining; information; and government**) posted job declines over the year, down 17,500 jobs. On a numerical basis, government employment showed the largest decline, down by 11,300 jobs (a decline of 0.5 percent).

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (**NOT** SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, **government** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 22,200 jobs. Most of the gains were in state and local government education, which were up by 4,000 and 15,800 jobs, respectively. Over the month, **trade, transportation and utilities** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 18,700 jobs. The losses were concentrated in the retail trade sector, which declined by 20,900 jobs.

Over the year, the **professional and business services** industries reported the largest gain, up 66,300 jobs. The largest gains were in the administrative and support services sector, primarily in employment services, which was up by 34,100 jobs. **Information and government** recorded the largest decreases over the year, each down by 6,000 jobs. This included a loss of 8,200 jobs in motion pictures and sound recording and a loss of 8,000 jobs in federal and state government.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

Industrial Classification	February 2005 (prelim.)	January 2005	February 2004	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	14,681.6	14,654.0	14,447.1	1.6
Natural resources and mining	22.8	22.7	23.0	-0.9
Construction	880.9	870.2	827.8	6.4
Manufacturing	1,535.8	1,538.1	1,529.6	0.4
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,764.8	2,768.0	2,728.5	1.3
Information	484.7	475.5	490.7	-1.2
Financial activities	917.8	917.8	894.0	2.7
Professional and business services	2,135.9	2,126.7	2,072.1	3.1
Educational and health services	1,578.1	1,577.4	1,552.6	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	1,468.0	1,468.8	1,431.1	2.6
Other services	509.4	507.3	503.0	1.3
Government*	2,383.4	2,381.5	2,394.7	-0.5
Agriculture	372.3	372.1	381.5	-2.4

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

	February 2005	January 2005	December 2004	February 2004
Civilian labor force ^a	17,739,000	17,610,000	17,631,000	17,472,000
Total civilian employment	16,718,000	16,590,000	16,580,000	16,346,000
Unemployment	1,021,000	1,020,000	1,051,000	1,126,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.4
US seasonally adjusted rate %	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.6

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	February 2005	January 2005	December 2004	February 2004
Civilian labor force ^a	17,714,000	17,560,000	17,627,000	17,488,000
Total civilian employment	16,625,000	16,462,000	16,630,000	16,312,000
Unemployment	1,089,000	1,098,000	997,000	1,176,000
Unadjusted rate %	6.1	6.3	5.7	6.7

^aLabor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
February 2005 (Preliminary); 2004 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	17,713,300	16,624,600	1,088,700	6.1%
ALAMEDA	759,600	716,600	43,000	5.7%
ALPINE	650	610	40	6.4%
AMADOR	17,210	16,140	1,070	6.2%
BUTTE	100,000	92,300	7,700	7.7%
CALAVERAS	19,930	18,520	1,410	7.1%
COLUSA	9,600	7,680	1,920	20.0%
CONTRA COSTA	513,900	486,800	27,100	5.3%
DEL NORTE	10,490	9,640	850	8.1%
EL DORADO	90,900	86,100	4,800	5.3%
FRESNO	401,500	355,500	46,000	11.5%
GLENN	11,730	10,480	1,250	10.6%
HUMBOLDT	61,440	57,190	4,250	6.9%
IMPERIAL	60,200	51,200	9,000	14.9%
INYO	9,150	8,640	510	5.6%
KERN	317,100	284,000	33,100	10.4%
KINGS	54,400	47,700	6,700	12.3%
LAKE	26,160	23,820	2,340	9.0%
LASSEN	14,120	12,770	1,350	9.6%
LOS ANGELES	4,847,700	4,551,100	296,600	6.1%
MADERA	62,200	56,300	5,900	9.4%
MARIN	131,600	126,100	5,500	4.2%
MARIPOSA	7,980	7,240	740	9.3%
MENDOCINO	43,880	40,790	3,100	7.1%
MERCED	99,300	86,400	12,900	13.0%
MODOC	4,100	3,660	440	10.8%
MONO	8,980	8,570	410	4.6%
MONTEREY	204,200	180,900	23,400	11.5%
NAPA	72,200	68,700	3,500	4.8%
NEVADA	49,420	46,770	2,640	5.3%
ORANGE	1,613,600	1,548,100	65,500	4.1%
PLACER	157,700	150,700	7,000	4.5%
PLUMAS	10,430	9,110	1,310	12.6%
RIVERSIDE	827,600	781,400	46,200	5.6%
SACRAMENTO	676,900	641,100	35,800	5.3%
SAN BENITO	25,900	23,100	2,800	10.9%
SAN BERNARDINO	854,300	808,400	46,000	5.4%
SAN DIEGO	1,518,300	1,449,100	69,200	4.6%
SAN FRANCISCO	431,000	407,200	23,800	5.5%
SAN JOAQUIN	281,800	255,600	26,300	9.3%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	132,900	126,900	6,000	4.5%
SAN MATEO	368,100	350,800	17,200	4.7%
SANTA BARBARA	214,100	203,000	11,100	5.2%
SANTA CLARA	827,700	777,400	50,400	6.1%
SANTA CRUZ	141,100	128,500	12,600	8.9%
SHASTA	85,400	78,500	7,000	8.2%
SIERRA	1,440	1,250	190	13.0%
SISKIYOU	19,450	17,180	2,260	11.6%
SOLANO	210,200	197,600	12,600	6.0%
SONOMA	257,700	245,000	12,700	4.9%
STANISLAUS	228,400	205,300	23,100	10.1%
SUTTER	40,600	35,600	5,000	12.3%
TEHAMA	25,230	23,200	2,030	8.1%
TRINITY	5,420	4,690	720	13.4%
TULARE	175,900	154,000	21,900	12.5%
TUOLUMNE	26,850	24,860	1,990	7.4%
VENTURA	423,500	402,200	21,300	5.0%
YOLO	96,600	89,800	6,700	7.0%
YUBA	25,500	22,800	2,700	10.5%